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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector to the Rural District Council of Buckingham.

1940.

H. W. FREESTONE, PRINTER, BUCKINGHAM.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health

for the Rural District of Buckingham

For the Year ending 31st December, 1940.

BUCKINGHAM,

10th September, 1941.

To the Rural District Council of Buckingham.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As your Medical Officer of Health I have much pleasure in laying before you my seventeenth Annual Report for year ending 31st December, 1940. This is again curtailed according to Ministry of Health Circular 1961, of February, 1940.

There has been an epidemic of measles among the school children, but there were no deaths. There has been a large number of evacuees received into the district, but many have returned. The general health of the evacuees is good. No immunisation against diphtheria has been given yet, but the parents have been circularised and it is hoped many of them will avail themselves of this opportunity next year.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres) (exclusive of area covered by water)	54,543
Population 1939	7605-7886
,, 1940	8447
Number of inhabited houses 1931...	2052
,, ,, ...	2341
Rateable Value	£34,987
Product of a 1d. Rate	£144

The inhabitants of the district are engaged chiefly in agricultural pursuits. There is a Brickyard at Calvert and two new small factories at Westbury. The general health of the inhabitants is good.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births:	M.	F.	Total	Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population, 13.1
Legitimate	55	60	115	
Illegitimate	2	0	2	
Still Births:				
Legitimate	0	3	3	Still Birth-rate per 1000 births, 25.6
Illegitimate	0	0	0	

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth — From Sepsis ... 0; ,, other causes 0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age — Legitimate 6. Illegitimate 0. — 51.2 per 1000 births

	Total	M.	F.	
Deaths	108	49	59	(Death-rate 12.7 per 1000)

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ...	0
,, ,, Cancer (all ages)	16

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year 1940 which requires comment.

The Birth-rate, 13.1 per 1000 population, is lower than that of England and Wales which is 14.6, both are, however, lower than last year.

The maternal mortality rate is nil.

The infantile mortality rate is 51.2 per 1000 births, slightly lower than that for England and Wales, 55.0, but higher than last year, 41.0.

The Death-rate is 12.7 per 1000 population, lower than that of England and Wales which is 14.3.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1940.

Disease.	Ages	Cases Notified. Total	M.	F.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Measles—						
Pre-School Children .. 53						
Adults 46		315	165	150		
School Children ... 216						
German Measles—						
Adults 17						
Pre-School Children .. 1		26	10	16		
School Children ... 8						
Whooping Cough		14				
Scarlet Fever	1		1	4	4	
	5		3	3	5	
	10		1	2	1	
	15	30	11	1	*11	
	20		1	1	2	
	30			3		
Erysipelas	30				1	
	40	4			2	
	60				1	
Pneumonia	1		2	3		4 Acute P.U.
	5			2		
	20		1	1		
	30	14	1	1		
	40					
	50		1			
	60		2			
Influenza						5
Small Pox						
Diphtheria						
Enteric						
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia ..						

*At Stowe San.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) *Medical.*—One part-time Medical Officer of Health.

(b) *Others.*—One whole-time Sanitary Inspector, who also acts as Surveyor and Inspector under the Meat Regulations. He holds the certificate of an Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and an Associate Member of the Institute of Sanitary Engineers.

Nursing in the Home.

All the villages are covered by district nurses supplied by the Bucks County Nursing Association, and kept up by local subscriptions and fees, and managed by a local Committee.

District nurses are stationed at Lillingstone Dayrell, Padbury Tingewick, Steeple Claydon, Twyford and Westbury.

Midwives.—All the district nurses do midwifery work and charge fees which go to the Local Committee as the nurses are paid a fixed salary. There are five nurses with the C.M.B. Certificate doing district work.

Health Visiting is done by the district nurses. There is no provision in the district for home nursing.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There are no Maternity or Child Welfare Centres in the district. District nurses treat school-children for minor ailments, and ante-natal treatment is carried on by the local doctors. Mothers can attend the Welfare Centre at Buckingham if they like.

Tuberculosis and Venereal Clinics.—There are no Clinics in the district. Venereal cases can obtain gratuitous treatment at Oxford, Northampton and Aylesbury Hospitals. The County Tuberculosis Medical Officer attends at Buckingham once a month to see patients from the district. He also visits cases at their homes when necessary.

There is an Orthopædic Clinic held at Buckingham monthly under the direction of Mr. Girdlestone, to which children from the Rural District can attend.

Hospital and Ambulance Facilities.

1. *Tuberculosis* —A Sanatorium for Buckinghamshire is situated at Peppard in Oxon, and is the joint Sanatorium for Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, and which is financed by the Bucks County Council jointly with the Berks County Council.

2. *Maternity.*—There is no Maternity Hospital. Abnormal cases are admitted to Hospitals at Oxford and Buckingham at the discretion of the doctors. An obstetrical consultant can be obtained by applying to the County Medical Officer.

3. *Infectious Diseases.*—The Rural District has no Infectious Disease Hospital. All cases of notifiable infectious diseases are sent to the County Council's fever hospital at Linslade, Leighton Buzzard. There are also other houses opened for minor cases from evacuees.

4. *Ophthalmic Treatment.*—Patients requiring special treatment of all eye diseases are admitted to the Eye Hospital in Oxford.

5. *General Treatment.*—There are no Hospitals or Nursing Homes situated within the Rural District. Patients are admitted to the following Hospitals:—

Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford;
Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury;
Northampton General Hospital; and
Buckingham Hospital.

6. *Institutions.*—There is no institutional provision in the Rural District for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

7. *Ambulances.*—A motor ambulance is stationed in Buckingham Town under the control of the St. John Ambulance Association and is available for the district for non-infectious diseases and accident cases. All cases of infectious disease are conveyed to Linslade by the Hospitals' own fever ambulance.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

There are no arrangements in the district for pathological or bacteriological examinations, but tubercular sputa are sent to the County Health Office at Aylesbury and examined by the County Tuberculosis Medical Officer. Suspected diphtheria swabs are sent to the Clinical Research Association by the Medical Practitioners attending the cases. Examinations of swabs and diphtheria antitoxin are paid for by this Council. Diphtheria immunization is offered to all school children by the Medical Officer of Health. No application has been recetved for anti-influenza vaccine. There has been no need at present for measle serum and no requests have been made for same.

A.R.P.

We have First Aid Points in most villages manned by trained personnel and at the present time all A.R.P. work is under the direction of the A.R.P. Organiser, Col. Gregson.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area and Administration.

WATER.

There are at present 32 Parishes provided wholly or partly with a piped supply of water. There supplies are maintained by the staff of the Bucks Water Board.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Three Parishes only have Sewage Disposal Schemes Plans had been prepared for eight others, but these have had to be abandoned owing to the outbreak of war. In many villages the present drainage system and sewerage leaves much to be desired.

Rivers and Streams.

Your Inspector does what he can to remedy nuisances as they arise, but many of the water courses are grossly polluted and until proper and efficient sewage disposal works are provided this pollution cannot be prevented.

Closet Accommodation.

There is a slow but steady increase in the number of water closets and the old insanitary privies are gradually disappearing.

Public Cleansing.

Quarterly collections of household refuse are made and a certain amount of salvage work is carried out, *vide* the Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspector of the Area.

The Inspector's Report appended with this Report will show the thoroughness with which this part of his work is carried out.

Shops Act.

No action has been taken under this Act.

Swimming Pools and Baths.

There are no public swimming baths in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action called for.

Schools.

Sanitary Condition.—Periodically examined for cleanliness and sanitary condition.

Water Supply.—Wells and public supplies.

Provision of Milk, etc.—Cheap Milk Schemes operating.

Housing, 1940.

Number of New Houses erected during Year :—

(a)	Total	15
(b)	As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme ...	14

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(A) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 318 registered Cow-keepers in the district. Their premises are inspected at regular periods and a fair standard of cleanliness is maintained. The number of Cow-keepers selling milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938, is 16. The Rural District takes samples of milk at intervals for bacterial content.

(B) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are 11 slaughter-houses on the Register. These slaughter-houses are not now in use as all animals are slaughtered at the Government slaughter-house at Buckingham.

(C) ADULTERATION.

Any action in connection with adulteration is taken by the Bucks County Council.

I must thank Mr. Jennings for his very willing and valuable help at all times.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. BRUCE PEARSON,

L.R.C.P. & L.R.C.S., ED.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor

For the Year ending 31st December, 1940.

BUCKINGHAM,
10th September, 1941.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith beg to submit a brief report of the work carried out by my Department during the year ended the 31st December, 1940.

General Summary of Inspections, etc., during the Year 1940:

Total No. of Inspections made	1617
Premises inspected on complaint...	279
Dwelling-houses inspected under periodical review...	Nil
Dwelling-houses inspected under Housing Acts ...	105
Visits paid to above	157
Visits paid to Houses under Public Health Acts ...	107
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ...	55
Visits *re* Water Supply	153
,, Drainage	112
,, Stables and Piggeries	Nil
,, Fried Fish Shops	Nil
,, Common Lodging Houses	Nil
,, Bakehouses	15
,, Refuse Collection and Disposal	187
,, Petroleum Stores	22
,, Overcrowding	Nil
Premises inspected *re* Overcrowding	Nil
Verminous places visited	3
Miscellaneous Housing visits	566
Visits paid to work in progress	150
Enquiries *re* Infectious Diseases	14
Visits *re* Disinfections	17
,, to Slaughter-houses	16
,, to Cowsheds	9

Notices Served:

(1) Informal Notices	23
(2) Matters remedied as a result of No. 1 ...	23
(3) Statutory Notices served	2
(4) Reported to Council	2

Details of Nuisances Abated:

Overcrowding	Nil
Smoke	Nil
Accumulation of Refuse	7
Foul Ditches, Ponds, etc.	3
Animals	1
Yards, Pavings, etc.	Nil
Dampness	2
Premises generally	10
Miscellaneous	Nil

Drains and Sewerage:

Water Closets substituted for pails or privies ...	4
Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc.	32
Drains unstopped, repaired, trapped, etc.	21
Waste pipes, r.w. pipes disconnected, repaired, etc....	4
New soil pipes or vent shafts fixed	3
Existing soil or vent shafts repaired	7
Drains re-constructed	3
Sewers repaired, cleansed, etc.	2
Cesspools, repaired, cleansed, etc.	Nil
New Septic Tanks constructed	3
Sewerage Schemes constructed by Local Authority...	Nil
Inspections carried out in connection with drainage and sewerage work	112

Water Supply:

Wells cleaned or repaired	3
Wells closed	Nil
Samples obtained for analysis	5

Public supplies are now available from Bucks Water Board's main in every Parish.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

Number inspected	2
Nuisances abated therefrom	Nil
Removed from District	Nil

Bakehouses.

Underground Bakehouses	Nil
On Register	11
Inspections	15
Contraventions	Nil
Defects remedied	Nil

Slaughter-houses:

On Register	11
Inspections	17
Frequency of Inspections	
Contraventions of Bye-laws	Nil
Defects remedied	Nil

Cowsheds and Dairies:

Producers on Register	316
Inspections	9
Contravention of Regulations	Nil
Contraventions remedied	Nil

Unsound Food.

No records as all animals are now slaughtered in Buckingham.

Disinfection:

Rooms disinfected:

(a) After ordinary infectious disease... ...	15
(b) After tuberculosis, etc.	2
(c) Rooms stripped and cleansed	1

House Refuse:

Parishes in which household refuse is removed by public scavenger—All Parishes with the exception of Luffield Abbey and Biddlesden.

Frequency of collections	Quarterly
Method of final Disposal ...	Controlled Tipping
Is refuse sorted for salvage purposes	Yes
Total amount of tins sorted and baled during year	26 tons
Total amount of black scrap sorted and disposed of during year	14 tons
Value of scrap sold during year	£70

Housing (Dwelling-houses):

(1)	Representations made to Local Authority ...	Nil
(2)	Dwelling-houses cleansed, repaired, etc., without closure as a result of (1)	Nil
(3)	Dwelling-houses cleansed, repaired, etc., without formal representation to Local Authority ...	5
(4)	Demolition Orders served	Nil
(5)	Houses demolished	Nil
(6)	Unfit houses still occupied	Not known
(7)	Cases of overcrowding dealt with	Nil
(8)	Houses built during year	Nil
(9)	Houses erected by Local Authority	Nil
(10)	Houses rendered fit by means of Grants under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	Nil

I desire to thank the Council, Medical Officer of Health, and all other officials for their kindness, courtesy and support in the performance of my duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F. T. JENNINGS,

Sanitary Inspector.